

REMARKS

Claims 2 through 34 are in this application and are presented for consideration. Claim 2-30, 32 and 33 have been amended, and new claim 34 has been added.

The specification, drawings and claims have been amended to address the Examiner's objections, incorporate the Examiner's suggestions and to place the application in better form.

The claims have also been amended to further highlight and more clearly point out the important features of the invention. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the careful reading of this application, for pointing out discrepancies, for providing suggestions, and indicating allowable subject matter.

Claim 33 has been rejected as being anticipated by Wallschlaeger '818.

Claim 33 has been amended to set forth that the guideway firmly supports the clamping body in a plurality of positions along a second direction. In the embodiment of figure 1, the guideway can be considered the surface 9, and the second direction can be considered the right/left direction. Applicant finds no teaching nor suggestion in Wallschlaeger of a guideway having all of these features.

The original claim 33 sets forth a guideway along which the clamping body can be moved in a second direction. The rejection feels that this feature can be found in the embodiment shown in figures 1-4 of Wallschlaeger. Applicant has reviewed these portions, and finds no guideway which "firmly supports a clamping body in a plurality of positions along a second direction". Figure 1 of Wallschlaeger does not appear to show a guideway, especially a guideway along which a clamping body can be moved in a second direction. In figures 3 and

4 of Wallschlaeger, the cylindrical locking element 40 cannot move in the right/left direction because of the shape of the spacer 43. The spacer 43 appears to firmly support the locking element 40 in only one position.

Meanwhile, in the embodiment of present figure 1 of the present invention, the clamping body 10 is preferably shaped to roll or slide on the surface 9. It is quite clear that the surface 9 can firmly support the clamping body 10 in a plurality of positions in the right/left direction. Wallschlaeger figures 3 and 4, on the other hand do not firmly support a clamping body or locking element 40 in a plurality of positions, but instead appears to only support the locking body 40 in one position. Therefore Wallschlaeger cannot anticipate all the features of amended claim 33. Claim 33 therefore cannot be anticipated by Wallschlaeger.

Furthermore, applicant finds no suggestion or motivation to modify Wallschlaeger, especially figures 3 and 4 to have spacer 43 support locking element 40 in a plurality of right/left directions. The shape of the interface between locking element 40 and spacer 43 leads the person of ordinary skill away from firmly supporting in a clamping body in a plurality of right/left directions. Therefore Wallschlaeger leads a person away from the plurality of positions of amended claim 33. Claim 33 therefore is not obvious in view of Wallschlaeger.

Applicant notes that if in Wallschlaeger, locking element 40 was forced right or left out of its stable position as shown in figures 3 and 4, the locking element 40 would be in an unstable position. An unstable position of locking element 40 is by definition a position where the locking element 40 would not be firmly supported. Therefore any forced movement of the locking element 40 into a more right or left position would not anticipate the firmly

supporting feature of claim 33.

New claim 34 sets forth that the mounting means forms a guide track along which the clamping body can be guided in a second direction. In the embodiment of present figure 1, the guide track can also be considered the surface 9. As described previously, Wallschlaeger does not disclose a guide track along which the clamping body can be guided in a second direction. Figure 1 of Wallschlaeger clearly does not show any guide track. In Wallschlaeger figures 3 and 4, an arcuately formed receptacle-like surface 44 is shown. The specification of Wallschlaeger in column 4 lines 1-2 states that this receptacle-like surface 44 receives the locking element 40. The specification does not indicate that this receptacle-like surface 44 can guide the locking element 40 in a second direction as in the present application. Instead it appears that this arcuately formed receptacle-like surface 44 can only hold the locking element 40 in a single right/left position. Holding the locking element 40 in a single right left position is not the same as guiding a clamping body in a second direction as set forth in claim 34. Therefore the structure in Wallschlaeger is not the same as the structure set forth in claim 34. Claim 34 therefore cannot be anticipated by Wallschlaeger.

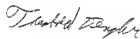
The locking element 40 in Wallschlaeger is held in a single stable position in the arcuately formed receptacle-like surface 44. This receptacle-like surface 44 therefore does not "guide" the locking element 40 in a second direction, but instead can only hold the locking element 40 in a single position. If any external right/left force is applied to locking element 40, the receptacle-like surface 44 actually resists this right/left force. Therefore the receptacle-like surface 44 prevents the locking element 40 from being guided in a second direction as set forth

in claim 34. This leads a person of ordinary skill away from any guiding in a second direction, and therefore Wallschlaeger not only does not further anticipate claim 34, but actually leads a person away from claim 34.

Applicant again thanks the Examiner for indicating allowable subject matter. If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions which would further favorable prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact applicant's representative by telephone to discuss possible changes.

Favorable action on the merits of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted
for Applicant,



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Attached: Petition for Three Month Extension of Time

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